

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 10009-1

TOPIC Laerz Airfield

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT 8 to 25 May 1952

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 20 June 1952 25X1A

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At 7:20 p.m. on 8 May 1952, Laerz airfield was occupied by 42 MiG-15s or type-29s; including 6 of an alert flight and 1 observed in the air, 3 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes, 3 biplanes, 2 twin-engine, low-wing monoplanes with tail wheels, and 1 twin-engine, low-wing monoplane with nose wheel. Of the aircraft 18 MiG-15s or type-29s, 3 single-engine low-wing monoplanes, 3 biplanes and 3 twin-engine low-wing monoplanes were parked northwest of the flight control building; 12 MiG-15s or type-29s planes were west of the south end of the N-S runway; 6 MiG-15s were parked as an alert flight in the knee formed by the new taxiway and the N-S runway; 5 MiG-15s or type-29s were at the north end of the N-S runway; and 1 MiG-15 or type-29 was observed in the air. During the night of 8 May, night flying was practiced until midnight. On 10 May, there was no flying. At 4:35 p.m. on 11 May, 42 MiG-15s were counted at the field. The number of the other aircraft was unchanged except for the single-engine, low-wing monoplanes of which only four were observed. The aircraft were arranged as on 8 May. Between 6 and 8 p.m. on 12 May, source observed from his place of work that individual take-offs were made. Some of the planes disappeared in the clouds. The cloud base was very low, and it rained slightly. Source who passed by train counted 33 MiG-15s or type-29s at 8:00 a.m. on 15 May and 38 MiGs or type-29s at 7:20 p.m. No flying was observed on 16 May. On 17 May, only three or four local flights were observed. About 1:15 p.m. on 21 May, the field was occupied by 41 MiG-15s or type-29s, 3 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes and some biplanes. At 7:15 p.m. on 24 May, source observed that the field was occupied by 54 to 56 MiG-15s or type-29s, 3 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes and 1 twin-engine, low-wing monoplane with a tail wheel. (1) The planes were parked in the following arrangement: 20 MiG-15s or type-29s southwest of the taxiway; 28 to 30 MiG-15s or type-29s east of the new building near the flight control building; 6 MiG-15s of the alert flight at the southern end of the runway; 3 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes and 1 twin-engine, low-wing monoplane at the south-west taxiway. During the period from 19 to 24 May, only slight air activity was observed. It was repeatedly observed that the MiG-15s were covered with white tarpaulins and the type-29s with brownish tarpaulins.

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2. Source learned from a member of the unit at the field that, during the morning hours of 14 or 15 May, an alert was practiced at the field. A siren sounded three times, whereupon all personnel rushed to the zigzag air raid trench in the southern section of the field. All aircraft were trucked into the woods east of the fuel dump which was south of the field. (2)
3. About 10 p.m. on 20 May, source heard from his dwelling the whistling of a locomotive from the direction of Ellerholz railroad station. At that time no trains usually arrived in Ellerholz; hence source reconnoitered Ellerholz railroad station at 6:30 a.m. on 21 May and observed that the following railroad cars had arrived there: 30 SS-type cars each loaded with a large crate; 1 SS-type car, loaded with two smaller crates; 1 SS-type car, loaded with a smaller crate; and 1 coach for the escorting personnel. (3)
4. It could not be determined where the AA guns which had previously arrived were emplaced. Source learned from a member of the unit at the field that tents which were occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were located near the new building southeast of the flight control building. Seven angular tents were near the new building, and seven round tents were on the southern edge of the runway. (4) About 7:10 p.m. on 24 May, source observed from the train in the Mirow-Ellerholz line that another train loaded with 12 AA guns, which were covered with tarpaulins, stood on the branch line to Wittstock. A boxcar with personnel was also on the train. Only one barrel 1.2 to 1.5 meters long with a muzzle brake could be observed. The train was ready for departure toward Mirow. (5)
5. On 18 May, seven heavy-duty flatcars with poles were observed at Ellerholz railroad station.
6. Source observed that another and slightly wider taxiway connected the west and south ends of the two runways. (6)

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8. The six AA guns which had been observed in the Rechlin restricted area between 10 April and 7 May arrived at Leers airfield on 19 May and were parked in the vicinity of the flight control station.
9. Source learned from official records that two railroad tank cars with petroleum arrived at the field between 11 and 17 May. (7) On 16 May, a radial engine was loaded and shipped to Rangsdorf. (8)

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(9) During the afternoon of 21 May, 15 large crates and two small crates were unloaded by means of a special railway-crane. The ropes of the crane were stuck through rings fitted on the corners of the crates. The crates were probably placed on runners since they were towed by caterpillar tractors to the field. Those crates which had not been unloaded were dispatched to Dargarten on the afternoon of 21 May. The train consisted of 15 SS-type cars, each loaded with a large crate, 1 SS-type car, loaded with a smaller crate, 1 coach with the escorting personnel, and 1 railway-crane. (3) The entire shipment with crates had come from Frankfurt/Oder. (10)

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11. After 14 May, two or three freight cars at Ellerholz railroad station were being loaded almost daily with the private belongings of Russians who were stationed in Rechlin. All the cars were dispatched to Frankfurt/Oder. It was rumored that all Soviet dependents had to be transferred from Rechlin. (11)
12. In the first half of May, a vulcanizing unit wearing black-bordered blue epaulets was transferred from Dallgow-Decheritz to the Rechlin restricted area. Minor locksmith work was performed by this unit.
13. Every third or fourth day, Russian women wearing poor civilian clothes arrived in Ellerholz. On the other days, about the same number of Russian women in uniforms left Ellerholz for an undetermined destination.

25X1X 14. On the evening of 24 May, 12 AA guns were transported to Ellerholz railroad station. (5)

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Comments.

- (1) This large number of MiG-15s which is reported for the first time indicates that new MiG-15s in crates arrived at the field. See also paragraphs 3 and 10.
- (2) This is a practice alert as it was also reported from other airfields of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army. It is believed that some of the aircraft were usually parked in the small woods on the southeastern edge of the field. This would account for the varying number of MiG-15s which fluctuates between 24 and 48.
- (3) The large crates probably contained MiG-15s and the smaller crates, jet engines.

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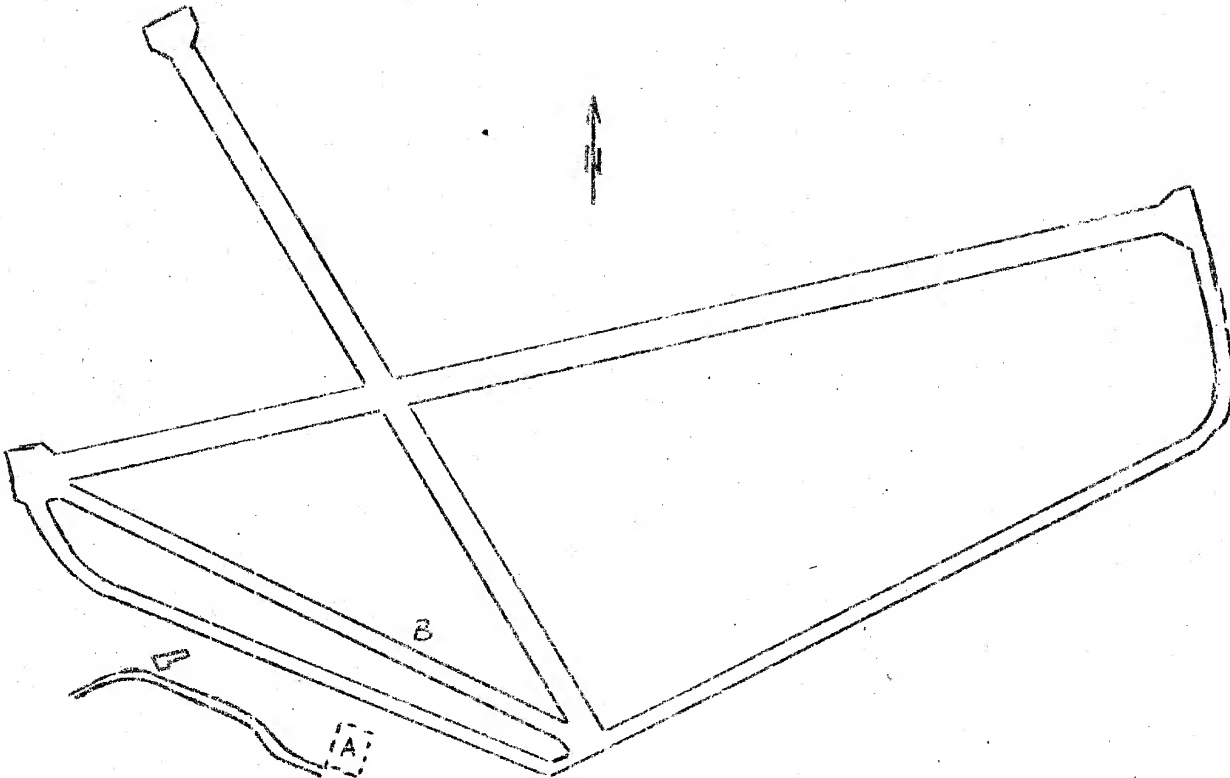
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Annex to



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Runways and Taxiways at Laerz Airfield



Legend:

- A Construction site of two scheduled hangars?
- B Connecting lane observed for the first time

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